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Letter, 1863 March 2, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary, and Alice Ladley]

Oscar D. Ladley

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Brooks Station Va.
March 2^d, 1863.

Dear Mother & Sisters,

I received your letter of Feb. 28th yesterday, I am well as I have ever been. I am sorry your arm does not get well faster, could not the Doc set it or fix it up so that it will get along better and faster.

I will tell you how I was promoted while there was a 1st Lt. in the same company. Promotions go by rank, or date of Commission, I was senior 2^d Lt. and as there was a vacancy in the Regt. of 1st Lt. I came in to the vacancy. You will see by reading my commission that promotions are made in the ~~Company~~ in the regiment and not in the Companies. I may be assigned to another company unless Moxey gets a Captains Commission.

I expect it was a sad sight to see so many poor fellows mangled and maimed but such things are common with us.

I was in Washington last week
and had some Photographs taken,
they are to be sent to me as they were
not done when I left, and as soon
as they arrive I will send you some.
I had one dozen taken, but if that is
not enough I can order some more, as they
keep the negative so that they can make
copies of them, and I can order as many
as I want.

There was one of our boys discharged
yesterday on account of size and strength.
I give him a letter of introduction to
you. He lives in Dayton and he will
visit the Springs some Sunday with
Channing White, and will call and
see you. While in Washington I was
paid for two months but it is
about all used up as I had to
borrow money to procure my outfit.
I was not in full uniform when I
had my picture taken, but I guess
it will look military enough.
I wrote to Mary Holmes some time ago

but have received no answer
but still look for one.

I should like very much to have
been to the supper you spoke of.
and heard the singing.
Our Cook "Refus" has gone to Ohio.
so I shall have nothing more to
write about him.

His next time you start out with
your French please translate it, so
that I may know what it is, or
was that the meaning of it (I hope you
are well) I am no Frenchman, I
want you to understand that!
I guess Snay knows nothing about
going to North Carolina or any
other place. the best thing he can
do is to come to the Regiment.

I got the letter you wrote for Jimmy
Beatz. The only way he can get
here is to get transportation at
Columbus and come on if he wants
to. I can do nothing for him unless
I was there, then I could bring him

to the Regiment.

I will tell you the facts in the case. James Beatz is not fit for a soldier. He is "Im compus mensus" I drilled him at Camp McLean and could learn him nothing, he is not capable of learning, and I should not want to be within sight of him with a gun in his hands. He knows nothing about a gun and he might shoot some one and most probably would if it was loaded. You see we don't want him very bad. He was reported as a deserter by Swope, and the only way he can get out of the fix is to get some one to go to Columbus that knows him and attend to his business for him. He has not enough sense himself.

Write often and I will do

the same.

Send me about 10 stamps

Affectionately

Osad.